

1 THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART  
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) No. CR19-230 JLR  
11 Plaintiff, )  
12 v. ) ORDER GRANTING STIPULATED  
13 LEONTAI BERRY, ) MOTION TO PROCEED WITH REMOTE  
14 Defendants. ) GUILTY PLEA BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

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15 This matter comes before the Court on the defendant's stipulated motion to proceed  
16 with a remote guilty plea hearing by video conference.  
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18 Having fully considered the record in this matter, the Court HEREBY FINDS that a  
19 video or telephonic guilty plea hearing should take place as soon as practical because further  
20 delays in this case would cause "serious harm to the interests of justice." *See* General Order  
21 No. 04-20 (3/30/20). Specifically, Mr. Berry was indicted on November 7, 2019, and, after a  
22 defense request for a continuance, his trial was scheduled for June 22, 2020. Dkt. 1, 32. His  
23 trial date was vacated when COVID-19 pandemic required closure of the Seattle and Tacoma  
24 courthouses and was recently reset for July 1, 2021. *See* Dkt. 44, 86; *see also* General Order  
25 04-21.  
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1 During this lengthy period of trial delay necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr.  
2 Berry has been subject to the terms of an appearance bond. Dkt. 22. Mr. Berry wants to move  
3 toward a final resolution of this matter by entering a guilty plea.

4 For the past year, the Court has conducted plea hearings via videoconference in an  
5 attempt to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. *See* General Order 06-21. The Chief  
6 Judge of this District has concluded that, in the interest of public health and safety, those  
7 procedures should continue through at least June 2021.

8 Therefore, the Court GRANTS the defendant's motion and ORDERS that a guilty plea  
9 hearing be scheduled by videoconference. The parties are directed to contact the magistrate  
10 clerks to schedule the videoconference plea hearing.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 DATED this 20th of April, 2021.

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17 The Honorable James L. Robart  
18 U.S. District Court Judge

21 Respectfully submitted April 20, 2021

22 \_\_\_\_\_ s/Cathy Gormley \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Cathy Gormley #26169  
24 Counsel for Mr. Berry